



PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 280/23 764 PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/DE2004/000922	International filing date (day/month/year) 28.04.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 02.05.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC		
Applicant RUD-KETTENFABRIK RIEGER & DIETZ GMBH U. CO.		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:
a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of 4 sheets, as follows:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).
<input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.
b. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).
4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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International application No.
PCT/DE2004/000922

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
 international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):

the international application as originally filed/furnished
 the description:
 pages 2-4 as originally filed/furnished
 pages* 1, 1a, 1b received by this Authority on 26.02.2005 with the letter of 25.02.2005
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the claims:
 nos. 2-10 as originally filed/furnished
 nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
 nos.* 1 received by this Authority on 26.02.2005 with the letter of 25.02.2005
 nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the drawings:
 sheets 1/2, 2/2 as originally filed/furnished
 sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____
 the claims, nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (specify): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

the description, pages _____
 the claims, nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (specify): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V **Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-10	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-10	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-10	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: DE 298 11 332 U (THEILE J D GMBH),
24 September 1998 (1998-09-24)

D2: DE 83 20 392 U (THEILE J D GMBH),
25 August 1983 (1983-08-25)

2. Document D1, which is considered to be the prior art closest to the subject matter of claim 1, discloses the following (the references in parentheses are to D1):

2.1 Chain lock for link chains, with two lock parts (1) which can slide towards each other to a limited extent in the longitudinal direction to open and close the lock, and which each have two ends (3, 4) joined by a longitudinal member (2), one end of each part forming a stud (5) with a retainer element (6) extending over part of the periphery of the stud, and the other end of each part being provided with a hollow (9) that receives the stud and has a retainer slot (7) for the retainer element (6).

2.2 The subject matter of claim 1 differs from the known chain lock in that the height of the stud (5) and the

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
	<p>hollow (9) is the same as the inner width of the lock, and also in that the stud has a plurality of retainer elements one above the other and the hollow has a plurality of retainer slots one above the other.</p> <p>2.3 The subject matter of claim 1 is therefore novel (PCT Article 33(3)).</p> <p>2.4 The problem addressed by the present invention can thus be seen as that of increasing the static and dynamic strength in the coupling region.</p> <p>2.5 The solution proposed in claim 1 of the application involves an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)) for the following reasons:</p> <p>2.5.1 There is nothing in any of the documents cited in the search report that might prompt a person skilled in the art to design a chain lock of the type known from D1 with a stud and a hollow as defined in the characterising part of claim 1. In particular, the feature whereby the stud has a plurality of retainer elements one above the other and the hollow has a plurality of retainer slots one above the other does not follow logically from the cited prior art (in D2 the retainer elements and the pocket are not one above the other, and D2 does not suggest using such an arrangement). The chain lock according to claim 1 therefore involves an inventive step.</p> <p>3. Claims 2 to 10 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore also meet the PCT requirements in respect of novelty and inventive step.</p>